

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (currently amended) A method of selecting ~~promising~~
the most potential candidate nucleotide sequences of an
analytical oligo nucleic acid for use in an analysis of a target
nucleic acid~~[[,]] the promising candidate nucleotide nucleotide~~
~~sequences have a high possibility of including a suitable~~
~~nucleotide sequence of the analytical oligo nucleic acid, the~~
method comprising:

(a) entering a nucleotide sequence of a target nucleic acid
to be analyzed into a computer;

(b) calculating an occurrence frequency of each of n unit
sequences occurring on the nucleotide sequence of the target
nucleic acid on the basis of a value of 4^n which ~~[[,]]~~
corresponds to all of the n unit sequences formed of n nucleotide
sequences, wherein n is an integer of 2 or more;

(c) ~~extracting~~ listing all candidate sequences having p number of nucleotides and are present on the nucleotide sequences of the target nucleic acid, wherein p is an integer larger than n by m, and m is an integer of 1 or more;

(d) ~~extracting~~ listing the n unit sequences contained in each of the candidate sequences;

(e) calculating an occurrence frequency index of each of the candidate sequences on the basis of the occurrence frequency of the n unit sequence calculated in step (b), by multiplying the occurrence frequencies of all the n unit sequences contained in each candidate sequence, wherein a lower occurrence frequency index indicates a higher specificity of the candidate sequences to the target nucleic acid; **[[and]]**

(f) selecting, from the candidate nucleotide sequences ~~extracted~~ listed in step (c), candidate nucleotide sequences each having a lower occurrence frequency index than a certain threshold value, thereby obtaining the ~~promising~~ potential candidate nucleotide sequences, the certain threshold value being arbitrarily set so that the ~~promising~~ potential candidate nucleotide sequences are substantially fewer than the candidate nucleotide sequences obtained from step (c) ~~and the suitable~~

~~nucleotide sequence being included in the promising candidates,~~
and

(g) selecting, from the potential candidate nucleotide sequences of step (f), the most potential candidate nucleotide sequences having a low stability of a molecular secondary structure which is not capable of forming a stable secondary structure, and whereby the most potential candidate nucleotide sequences are capable of readily hybridizing with the target nucleic acid under hybridization conditions are selected.

Claim 7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said n is 5, 6, or 7.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[8]] 6, wherein the stability of the molecular secondary structure is determined by at least one property selected from the group consisting of (i) thermal stability as measured by a

value of T_m and (ii) stability of an intramolecular secondary structure.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein a nucleotide sequence having ~~[[the]]~~ a T_m value falling within a predetermined range is selected from the ~~promising~~ potential candidate nucleotide sequences and which forms an unstable secondary structure is further selected.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The method according to any one of claims 6 ~~[[to]]~~ , 7, 9 or 10, wherein all of the calculations involved in steps (a) to (f) are sequentially performed by a computer.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The method according to any one of claims 6 ~~[[to]]~~ , 7, 9 or 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence of an analytical oligo nucleic acid is used in (i) a PCR method for detecting a specific nucleotide sequence present in a nucleotide sequence of a nucleic acid by using an enzyme reaction which requires hybridization reactions of a nucleic acid, or (ii) in a hybridization reaction of a nucleic acid employing a probe.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 5, wherein the spelling of "SEQUENCES" was corrected. This sheet, which includes Figs. 3 to 6, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 3 to 6.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet

Annotated Drawing Sheet Showing Changes